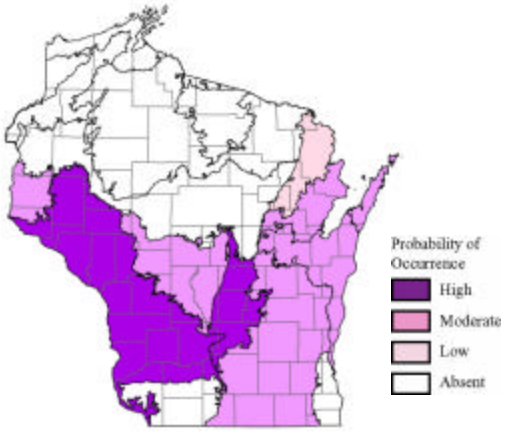
# Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clara*)

**Species Assessment Scores***

| | |
|---|---|
| State rarity: | 3 |
| State threats: | 3 |
| State population trend: | 3 |
| Global abundance: | 3 |
| Global distribution: | 5 |
| Global threats: | 4 |
| Global population trend: | 4 |
| Mean Risk Score: | 3.6 |
| Area of importance: | 4 |

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.




**Ecological Landscape Associations**
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

## Landscape -community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

| Ecological Landscape | Community |
|---|---|
| Central Lake Michigan Coastal | Warmwater rivers |
| Central Sand Hills | Warmwater rivers |
| Central Sand Plains | Warmwater rivers |
| Northeast Sands | Warmwater rivers |
| Northern Lake Michigan Coastal | Warmwater rivers |
| Southeast Glacial Plains | Warmwater rivers |
| Western Coulee and Ridges | Warmwater rivers |
| Western Prairie | Warmwater rivers |

## Threats and Issues

- Loss and fragmentation of large river habitat from dams threatens this species, which inhabits areas of moderate to swift current over extensive sand flats.
- Point and non-point source pollution threaten this species, which is particularly vulnerable to siltation.
- Alteration of the Mississippi River for commercial navigation purposes, including multiple lock and dam structures, has eliminated habitat for this species. This species is difficult to sample, and often not sampled due to its microhabitat preferences, and thus little information on the status and trends of this species is available in Wisconsin.

## Priority Conservation Actions

- Protection and restoration of appropriate habitat in the medium and large rivers of the Mississippi and Lake Michigan drainage basins where this species occurs is needed.
- This species would benefit from efforts to control point and non-point source pollution in the basins where it occurs, including broad riparian buffer strips, stiff pesticide regulations, upland erosion control, and modern pollution control systems.
- More information on distribution, populations trends, and limiting factors is needed to inform and focus conservation efforts targeted at this species.